

## REMARKS

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Blaum et al. To overcome this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include features of cancelled claim 7, and claim 27 has been amended to include features of cancelled claim 30. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 now provides, among other things, that the position recognizing unit (i) recognizes a position of the sector bits, constituting the sector pattern, in the storage area based on such sector bits obtained by the sector bit obtaining unit, (ii) recognizes a position of the index pattern corresponding to the sector pattern based on the recognized position of the sector bits, and (iii) recognizes the position of each servo frame in the individual storage area based on the recognized position of the index pattern.

Blaum et al. is silent about (i) recognizing a position of the sector bits, constituting the sector pattern, in the storage area based on such sector bits obtained by the sector bit obtaining unit, (ii) recognizing a position of the index pattern corresponding to the sector pattern based on the recognized position of the sector bits, and (iii) recognizing the position of each servo frame in the individual storage area based on the recognized position of the index pattern. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its related dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite that the sector bits constituting the sector pattern are arranged so as to correspond to the index bits constituting the index pattern.

Blaum et al. is silent about arranging the sector bits constituting the sector pattern so as to correspond to the index bits constituting the index pattern. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 and its related dependent claims is requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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